

A WEEK WITH THE STATE LAWMAKERS

SOLONS IN BOTH BRANCHES WRESTLE WITH STATEWIDE MEASURES.

URGE CONCILIATION BOARD

Provide For Agriculture in Common Schools.—Long Time Land Loans.—Child Labor Bill.

The administration bill to create a board of conciliation for the investigation and arbitration of industrial disputes, introduced in the house by J. W. Boyd, passed second reading in the house without opposition or debate. No vote was taken, the bill going through as if it were an uncontested local measure.

The bill provides for a board of three members to be appointed by the governor, one for two, one for four and one for six years, which will thereafter be the term of service. The per diem is fixed at \$10 and the board can be called into session by the governor, the attorney general or either of the aggrieved parties.

The duties and functions of the board shall be the "conciliation of industrial disputes or strikes or lock-outs and the removal of cause for industrial disputes of strikes or lock-outs." The board is given power to summon witnesses and compel them to testify, to compel the production of books and documents, to inspect property and to examine into working conditions and sanitary conditions.

"In the interest of harmony and justice and for continued good feeling and mutual understanding between employer and employee in South Carolina, I earnestly urge that this law be enacted without delay," says Gov. Manning in a special message, sent to the general assembly, in which he advocates the immediate passage of the bill providing for a state board of conciliation.

Without opposition the house passed the Toole and LaGrone bill, providing for an appropriation of \$5,000 for the teaching of agriculture in the common schools of the state under certain conditions, involving the cooperation of the schools and the kind of schools. It was maintained by the authors of the bill that an early familiarity with agriculture would inculcate love for and knowledge of the soil and would inure to the benefit of the state and the young people.

This is one of the measures the passage of which was urged by Gov. Manning in a special message. The bill provides that state aid to the extent of \$750 will be given when three or more school districts raise a similar amount; the aggregate will provide for the teacher's salary. Any public school, however, co-operating in this work must have an enrollment of at least 75 pupils with a regular attendance of at least 40, three teachers a term of seven months, a local tax of 8 mills, a sanitary building of at least three rooms, plot of not less than two acres, satisfactory equipment and use of the adopted textbooks. The bill also provides for the free enrollment of a pupil more than 14 years old who desires to pursue the agricultural course.

The creation of a board of land commissioners, which will sell homesteads on long time loans and which will make farm mortgage loans is provided in a bill by the Florence county delegation, consisting of W. S. Lynch, Charles W. Muldrow and R. Keith Charles. The bill is one of those recommended for consideration at this session by the steering committee.

The purpose of the bill, which authorizes the issuance of \$20,000,000 in bonds in lots of \$500,000, is to "foster and encourage the art of agriculture, the occupation and development of the partially developed or totally undeveloped lands of the state in homesteads and to offer opportunities to the citizens for land improvement."

The bill provides a method for the state to lend its aid and credit to farmers on "land warrants" or contracts to be paid back on an installment basis.

Both the Sheard rural credits bill and that by Senator Nickles passed to third reading, with notice of general amendments when the bill came up for consideration. The plan proposed in passing the two to third reading was to strike out the enacting words of the Sheard bill and amend by substituting the Nickles bill, which would create a rural credits bank.

The bill to create a 13th judicial circuit out of Hampton, Beaufort and Colleton counties was read the second time.

A bill relating to the high schools of the state and providing for state aid was passed in the house by the overwhelming majority of 89 to 9. The bill regulates the disbursement of the \$35,000 appropriation for the advancement of high schools and does away with the charging of tuition in certain instances. The bill has been introduced by practically all those connected with the public school system of South Carolina.

Pass Child Labor Bill.

Reversing its position taken a few days ago, the house by a large majority voted in favor of a substitute child labor bill introduced by Mr. McCullough; the new bill, which was given a second reading on a ye and nay vote of 61 to 39, provides that after July 1, 1916, no child under 13 shall work in a factory, mine or textile establishment and after July 1, 1917, no child under 14 shall work in similar occupations. A special provision is made to prohibit children under 14 from working in a district where the compulsory school attendance law is in force.

Only two Quarts Per Month. Prohibition measures were further entrenched in South Carolina when the senate by a vote of 26 to 18 reduced the amount of liquor that may be imported each month from one gallon to two quarts. Earlier in the morning an amendment to limit monthly shipments to one quart was rejected by a vote of 21 to 23. Several other amendments were offered, among these being two to allow the alternative of beer shipments. One by Senator Hughes of Union would provide for 60 bottles or one-half barrel of beer monthly. Senator Sinkler of Charleston offered in substitute an amendment to provide for 30 bottles of beer. Vote was not taken on the alternative amendments during the morning session.

The bill by James H. Hammond of Richland county providing for the issuance of bonds by the county for road improvement was accepted by the house on a ye and nay vote of 42 to 41 after a heated and rather personal debate among members of the delegation, the majority of whom had introduced a similar bill. The "clinch" was put on and the bill was sent to a third reading.

J. E. Swearingen, state superintendent of education, will urge the finance committee of the senate to increase the appropriations for the schools of the state by \$36,000. He said the increase would supply the needs of the schools for the year, but that no progress could be made.

The house passed the bill by Mr. Hicks and W. H. Rogers, Jr., to require cotton mills to pay their employees every week. Mr. Hicks produced petitions from operatives and letters from several corporations, asking that the bill be enacted.

The bill by Messrs. Moore and Robinson to establish the John De La Howe industrial home and school for destitute children, carrying a state appropriation of \$10,000, was given a second reading in the house, with practically no opposition.

The committee on privileges and elections returned a favorable report on the bill to create McCormick county, in behalf of which a large delegation from McCormick recently appeared before the committee.

The bill by Mr. Dixon providing for an inheritance tax, which is in effect in all but six states in some form, was killed in the house on a ye and nay vote of 65 to 44, after an adjourned debate from the morning session.

The house killed a bill by Mr. Lynch of Florence to declare that it would not be unlawful to store beer and light wines, the bill being a quasi-amendment to the gallon-a-month law.

A bill providing for an election in April on a \$250,000 bond issue for the improvement of roads in Union county has been introduced in the house. Refunding Bonds.

Bids for refunding part of the state debt, amounting to \$5,000,000, under the terms of the refunding act of 1912, have been called for by the sinking fund commission. The commission decided to insert an advertisement for bids which will be opened February 16. The new bonds will be issued in place of the brown consols and will bear 4 per cent interest, which is one-half per cent less than the state is now paying. It is estimated that the state will save about \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year by the transaction. The bonds are to be sold for not less than par. Under the refunding act passed in 1912, no provision is made for exempting from taxation that part of a bank's investment in the new bonds. The brown consols are exempt from taxation.

Mr. Robinson of McCormick in Abbeville county has introduced a bill in the house to establish McCormick county, which was recently voted in by the voters of the territory contained in the proposed lines.

W. W. Moore, adjutant general, is hopeful that the senate will approve the item inserted in the appropriation bill by the lower house, which creates an emergency fund of \$25,000 to meet the federal property shortage of the national guard. "This shortage must be settled not later than June 30," he said.

Without debate the house passed to third reading a bill by Mr. Jackson making it a misdemeanor for a minor to receive intoxicating liquors. Penalty for the violation of the statute is placed at not more than \$100 or 12 months.

GERMANS MAKING FIERCE ATTACKS

GAIN Foothold IN SOME FRENCH TRENCHES IN THE ARTOIS SECTION.

ARTILLERY IS KEPT BUSY

Germans do Considerable Damage in Argonne Forest.—Russian Heavy Guns Are Active.

London.—The German are fiercely attacking the French positions in the Artois section as well as in Champagne. In the latter district Berlin reports the capture of a front of about 700 yards, while the French admit that the Germans have gained a foothold in some of their advanced trenches near the Tahure-Somme-Py road.

In Artois near Hill 140 which lies to the southwest of Vimy, the German attacks followed one another in quick succession, there being four during the course of the afternoon. Pushing forward in the face of a hail of shells and bullets, the Germans, on their fourth attempt, succeeded in entering one of the French first line trenches, which, however, they failed to hold, being almost immediately driven out with considerable losses in dead and wounded, according to Paris.

Northeast of Soissons, a German attack, preceded by a bombardment, resulted in the capture of a French trench near the Crony road, but here also they were thrown out, leaving their dead on the field.

On the British end of the line there have been sapping operations and bombardments by both sides. All around Soissons the German artillery was busy, preparatory to infantry attacks; but the attacks did not eventuate owing to the French use of their guns in a number of volleys.

Considerable damage has been done to German positions in the Argonne forest by the French Artillery duels are in progress in Lorraine and in the Vosges.

The heavy guns are being actively employed on both sides in the northern section of the Russian front, but no important changes in position have occurred.

In the Isonzo regions the Austrians have taken entrenchments from the Italians in the Ronzon zone, while the Italian artillery has bombarded Austrian positions at various points, especially in the Gorizia sector.

BERLIN Note on Armed Merchantmen Reaches D. P. Marten. Washington.—Secretary Lansing studied at his home the text of the memorandum from Berlin announcing the intention of the German Government to regard armed merchant ships of the Entente Allies as war vessels after February 29. He will discuss the subject with President Wilson at once.

The text of the memorandum from Austria, similar to that issued by Germany was momentarily expected. It is considered doubtful that an announcement of the position the United States will take in the matter will be defined until both documents have been digested and considered. Between now and that time the attitude of the government is made known, the state department may notify the representatives of the Entente Allies here of the receipts of the documents from the Central Powers; so that their government may be completely informed on the subject.

Ford to Fight Preparedness. Detroit, Mich.—It has been announced that Henry Ford is preparing to launch a countrywide campaign of newspaper and magazine advertising against the program for huge naval and military expenditures now before congress. It was said Mr. Ford intends soon to carry out his announced intention to devote millions of dollars to an educational campaign against war and preparedness which he declares will be the first step toward actual war.

Wilson Close to Congress. Washington.—Secretary Garrison's resignation last week has had three far-reaching results upon Congress, in the opinion of administration leaders. When the excitement following the unexpected development had subsided it was apparent that it had clarified the legislative atmosphere with regard to two important issues. National defense and Philippine independence, and had served almost magically to bring congress and the president closer together than they had been for many months.

Help Is Needed. Little Rock, Ark.—Bitter feeling against United States army engineers because of published statements attributed to them that reports of distress in the flood districts of Arkansas had been exaggerated, was manifested at a mass meeting in Lake Village, which was attended by Major West of the Mississippi River commission, and Lieutenant Finch of the United States army. Lieutenant Finch offered employment to the male refugees at 50 cents a day, their wives and children to be housed on government boats.

LAYMEN'S RALLY IS ENDED

Inspiring Vision Given Visitors of Opportunity For Work In Foreign Missions.

Columbia.—"For the size of the city and the conditions under which the convention was held, I think that Columbia should have the blue ribbon for the United States," said Lieut. Col. E. W. Halford of New York, in the closing address of the South Carolina laymen's missionary meeting. Lieut. Col. Halford said that he made such a statement to the field secretary, Dr. Lilly, at the beginning and that he was still of that opinion in the closing moments of the great convention.

Before benediction was said by Dr. Green of Greenwood, the number of registrations for the convention had reached 2,215 men, the largest by far of any Southern city and one of the best for the entire country. Of the 75 laymen's conventions to be held in the second national campaign, Columbia's was the 40th and of these 40 Columbia ranks fifth in total enrollment. Chicago had 4,556 registrations and is first; Cincinnati was second with 3,073; Pittsburgh was third with 2,712; Boston came fourth with 2,566. And it must be admitted that the four that have outdone Columbia in numbers are slightly larger in population, both as to the city and the surrounding territory.

Before the convention adjourned, various agencies were thanked for their contributions to the success of the gathering, but to J. O. Van Meter, executive secretary, was given not only the thanks of the chairman, William Spenser Currell, but a special resolution in which he was praised for his efficient and untiring efforts, as follows:

"Whereas, Brother J. O. Van Meter, the executive secretary of the Laymen's Missionary convention now closing its session, has so conducted the affairs of the convention that it has succeeded to an eminent degree, be it

"Resolved, That the thanks of the executive committee, the general local committee and the county committees and all laymen are hereby tendered him for his faithful and efficient service, and that we predict for Mr. Van Meter a large place in the service of the Master, and we will follow him in his work with our interest and prayer."

Gen. Wood at Aiken. Aiken.—Maj. Gen. Leonard A. Wood, commanding the Department of the East, United States army, delivered a strong address on "Preparedness" at the Theatrical theatre, speaking under the auspices of the Citizens' club before the people of Aiken and a large number of the winter residents and visitors at the resort.

Gen. Wood motored over from Augusta, where he addressed the Manufacturers and Merchants' association at its annual dinner. On the way were Rear Admiral Perry and Rear Admiral Mead, United States navy.

Gen. Wood echoed a great deal of what President Wilson has explained in his appeal to the American people on the necessity of national defense and drove home some vital truths in earnest argument.

The condition that the United States can not be prepared to defend itself and to maintain peace without fostering militarism is, he declared, declared. He then attacked voluntary service, vigorously insisting that the spirit of it is beautiful but the system is sadly ineffective.

Byrnes Wants Mileage Lowered. Washington.—Congressman Byrnes of South Carolina, introduced a bill providing that hereafter mileage of members of congress be made 5 cents per mile coming to and returning home from Washington once each session. The present rate of such pay is 20 cents per mile and it has been said that members coming from distant states reap a good sum from this source alone.

Boy Killed by Interurban. Greenville.—Wofford Phillips, a white boy 14 years of age, was struck and instantly killed by an inbound interurban car from Spartanburg just above the Poe mill crossing. The boy's body was terribly mangled and the remains were almost unrecognizable.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS ITEMS. Congressman Aiken has asked congress to appropriate money for a federal building at Greenwood.

Dr. W. W. Anderson, aged 72, died at his home in Summerton a few days ago.

HARMONY PREVAILS AT WHITE HOUSE

PREPAREDNESS ADVOCATES NOW ABLE TO CO-OPERATE IN THEIR WORK.

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN WILSON

Members for Congression Committees Agree That Resignation of Garrison Has Clarified Situation.

Washington.—A new note of harmony and co-operation on national defense problems was struck in the house military committee as a direct result of the resignation of Secretary Garrison of the War Department. It found expression in the adoption of a resolution declaring the committee's appreciation of the confidence President Wilson reposed in it and in the senate committee as disclosed in its correspondence with Mr. Garrison.

The non-partisan character of the feeling was emphasized by the fact that the resolution was offered by Representative Kahn of California, ranking Republican member of the committee.

Members of both the congressional committees declared that the War Secretary's withdrawal had brought out sharply the President's desire that congress should work out its army problems in the light of its own best judgment, despite his personal preference for the continental army scheme advocated by Mr. Garrison and the army war college. The net result, they agreed was a clarification of the congressional atmosphere and the assurance of support for the bills that will be drafted from elements of both the Democratic and Republican sides that had heretofore been counted against the measures.

In substance, it is believed, the bills will represent an effort to make effective virtually all of the plans of the war department with the exception that federalization of the national guard will be sought as a substitute for the continental army plan.

Steps toward beginning the drafting of the measures were taken by both house and senate committees. Both will take up the work Monday and it is planned to hold all-day sessions whenever the business of the two houses will permit.

The house committee brought to a close public hearings on army plans and ordered an elaborate indec of the voluminous testimony prepared, so there would be as little delay as possible either in committee consideration or the coming struggle on the floor. Similar steps were taken by the senate committee.

TROUBLE FOR UNCLE SAM. No Matter Which Way He Decides Matter He Will Offend. Washington.—Diplomatic negotiations of various characters soon will confront the United States as the result of the expressed intention of the German and Austrian governments to treat armed merchant ships of the Entente Allies as war vessels after February 29.

Apparently it is certain if the temper of the Allied Governments can be judged by the feelings of their diplomatic representatives here, that any attempt by the United States to change the present rule permitting the use of American ports by merchant ships armed for defensive purposes will be met by a strong protest. Correspondence also is likely to follow if the United States assumes a position which coincides with that of Germany and Austria regarding the right of submarines to sink armed ships without warning.

On the other hand, the United States itself may take the initiative should the Entente Allies impose a virtual boycott on American ports in the event of this government deciding that armed merchant ships entering American waters are ships of war, and therefore subject to internment.

No Personal Differences. New York.—Merely a difference in views and not any friction in their personal relations led to the severance of official relations between Lindsey M. Garrison as secretary of war and President Wilson, according to the former cabinet officer. As he and Mrs. Garrison were leaving the home of George Leary he was asked if there were any personal differences. "Oh, no," he replied, "nothing personal at all. It is merely a matter of difference in views."

No Desire to Humiliate Germany. Washington.—Secretary Lansing, in a statement secured here by the Wolf Bureau, declares that the United States has asked nothing of Germany during the course of the Lusitania negotiations which could not with honor and dignity be complied with. The statement was sought as a reply to an interview with the German Imperial chancellor, which it was contended that to meet the requirements of the United States would impose an "impossible humiliation" upon Germany.

ALFALFA GROWERS HOLD CONVENTION

ANNUAL SESSION OF YORK COUNTY ASSOCIATION AT ROCK HILL.

GOOD SPEECHES ARE HEARD

Work of Body in Trying to Resist Boll Weevil Is Commended.—Good Reports.

Rock Hill.—The annual meeting of the York County Alfalfa Growers' association was held here, with about 100 farmers and a number of guests present at the banquet which preceded the speaking and transaction of business. Following the course luncheon, President J. M. Cherry called the body to order. Reports from the officers were first heard.

Treasurer W. R. Timmons reported that the membership of the association is 200 and that its financial condition is satisfactory.

Secretary Charles R. Weeks read a report filled with interesting and important information. He reported that members of the association the past season bought through the organization's purchasing agent 23,000 pounds of alfalfa seed and 2,250 tons of lime. Reports made to the secretary by growers showed that the average price secured for the alfalfa hay crop of the past year was \$20 a ton. It is estimated that members of the association have 2,400 acres in alfalfa, and it has cost them from \$15 to \$45 per acre to secure a good stand, including preparation of the soil, seed, etc.

A. G. Smith of the United States department of agriculture, and L. A. Niven, editor of Southern Farming, were the principal speakers.

Following Mr. Smith's speech the association voted unanimously to ask him to secure from his department a survey or investigation of conditions in this county which will determine the cost of growing alfalfa.

L. A. Niven of Atlanta, formerly professor of agriculture in Winthrop college, who is familiar with alfalfa growing in this section, congratulated the association upon its achievements in introducing a new crop.

Following the addresses of the guests of the occasion, brief speeches were made by John T. Roddey, W. F. Baldwin of Columbia, Alex. Williford, V. Brown McFadden and W. J. Cherry of the association. Mr. McDonald of Winnsboro delivered greetings from interested alfalfa growers in Fairfield county; Luther Ellison, secretary of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, told how farmers in that county are planning to become alfalfa growers; Mr. Kirkpatrick of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, who is a member of the York county association, and Mr. Whitfield of Nebraska, a visitor in the city, made brief talks.

The election of officers of the association for the ensuing year resulted in the re-election of the former officers, as follows: President, J. M. Cherry; vice president, T. L. Johnston; secretary, C. R. Weeks; treasurer, W. R. Timmons; purchasing agent, John A. Black.

Revenue Officers Busy. Greenville.—R. Q. Merrick, internal revenue officer with headquarters in Greenville, has with his assistants raided 27 illicit distilleries during the month of January. Property of the stills was destroyed in each instance, the total value of this property amounting to a considerable figure. In addition to breaking up the outfits, thousands of gallons of beer or liquor in the making were poured out by the officers.

Lightning Kills Negro. Wedgefield.—A storm of unusual intensity passed over this section recently. The lightning at times reminded one of summer. The house of Damon Williams, a negro, was struck. His oldest boy was killed instantly and three others stunned, but they recovered.

Chesterfield Secures Agent. Chesterfield.—Another long stride on the path of progress was made when Chesterfield county secured the services of a home demonstration agent. This office has recently been created, and the services of Miss Stella Mins of Blackville have been secured. Miss Mins comes well prepared for her work. She has worked with Mrs. Walker, and is familiar with the work from a practical standpoint. Miss Mins, in addition to being a teacher of experience, is also a good farmer.

Night School Is Success. Norway.—Henry Watson of Dillon county is principal of the Bethel school between Norway and Cope. This young man some months ago opened a night school for those who could not read and write. He has a large class of men, some of them between 60 and 70 years of age. No tuition is charged. Watson walks nearly two miles at night to meet this class and remains until 11 o'clock. He was surprised to find so many men who could not read, or sign their names.

A Distinctive Reason

What is the chief reason for the superiority of Royal Baking Powder?

There are several good reasons, but there is one which distinguishes Royal from other baking powders.

This reason, which every woman should know, is that Royal Baking Powder is made from cream of tartar, which comes from grapes. This means a healthful fruit origin. It means natural food as distinguished from mineral substitutes used in other baking powders.

There is no alum nor phosphate in Royal Baking Powder.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO. New York

INOCULATION AS CHOLERA PROTECTION

Injecting Serum.

district and other hogs that are not treated may become infected. In such cases it is probable the man introducing the hog cholera by means of the simultaneous treatment would be liable for damages if he cannot localize the disease to his own place. The simultaneous treatment costs only a few cents more than the other and renders grown pigs immune from cholera during a considerable length of time, possibly for life.

Where it is not certain that hog cholera is actually in the district, but where it is suspected that the disease has become established within a few miles of the hog farm the "single" treatment is recommended. This consists of injecting a sufficient quantity of antioxin into the blood of the pigs and thus rendering them immune to any attacks of cholera. This work should be done by a trained veterinarian and the serum will cost about forty cents for an average size pig. The serum will render the pig immune from cholera for two to three months and must be repeated at the end of that time.

MISTAKE TO SELL HAY CROP. Seldom That Ice Received Equals Feeding and Fertilizing Value If Fed at Home.

By E. L. JORDAN, Louisiana University Experiment Station.) It is a mistake for our farmers to sell their hay crop unless the prices received are such as to cover both the feeding and fertilizing value of the hay if fed at home.

It is seldom that the price received equals both these values, and the fertilizing value, at least, is lost. A well-balanced farm should carry enough live stock to consume all the roughage and grain the farm can produce.

Good Dairy Combination. The dual purpose cow and the centralized creamery make a good dairy combination. The cow don't care how much cream she gives and the creamery don't care how often the cream is delivered.

GOOD TIME TO PRUNE TREES. Much Depends Upon Object Sought, Age of Trees and Convenience in Performing the Work.

It is a fact that trees pruned in June are more likely to set fruit than if pruned in spring or winter; also wounds made in June heal more quickly than when made in early spring. On the other hand, it is a fact that most farmers and orchardists are too busy in June with other work to attend to pruning; also it is more difficult to prune in June, because the leaves cover the trees and interfere more or less with rapid, easy work. It is also a fact that no one rule will apply to all cases.

If a farmer or fruit grower wants wood growth in a young orchard or on young shade trees, he will get it most quickly by doing his pruning in early spring, whereas, if he wants merely to promote the formation of fruit buds, he will find that June pruning is best; so, looking at the question in a large way, there are two "best" times to prune trees—depending upon the object sought, the age of the trees and convenience in doing the work.

MANNING'S NEXT BIG DAY WILL BE APRIL 14th--FIELD DAY. WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYBODY IN THE COUNTY HERE TO HELP CELEBRATE THIS GREAT OCCASION.